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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/712,302 | 11/14/2000 | Christopher J. Smith | 046700-5044 | 8621 |

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| EXAMINER |
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KARMIS, STEFANOS

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3624

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/712,302

Applicant(s)

SMITH, CHRISTOPHER J.

Examiner

Stefano Karmis

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed 25 April 2005.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-30 are left as originally filed and are pending in this application.

Summary of this Office Action

3. Applicant's arguments, filed 25 April 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-30 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made as discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13-16, 18, 20-22, 24, 26 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boesch et al. (hereinafter Boesch) U.S. Patent 5,897,621

Regarding independent claims 1 and 16, Boesch discloses a method to transform bids in an electronic auction comprising: receiving a first bid having a first value and a first unit of measurement, and second bid having a second value and a second unit of measurement (column 10, line 65 thru column 11, line 6); and transforming said first and second values to third and forth values, respectively, having a standard unit of measurement (column 11, lines 7-43).

Claims 3 and 18, determining a first transformation factor for said first value; determining a second transformation factor for said second value; and transforming said first value using said first transformation and said second value using said second transformation factor (column 11, lines 24-42).

Claims 5 and 20, transforming said first value and said second value comprises multiplying said first value by said first transformation factor and said second value by said second transformation factor (column 11, lines 24-42).

Claims 6 and 21, searching a look-up table for said first and second transformation factors; and retrieving said first and second transformation factors in accordance with said search (column 11, lines 24-42 and column 8, lines 49-58).

Claims 7 and 22, identifying a first set of transformation variables for said first value; determining a first transformation function to derive said standard unit of measurement using said first value and said first set of transformation variables; receiving a value for each of said first set of transformation variables; and determining said first transformation factor using received values and said first transformation function (column 11, lines 24-42).

Claims 9 and 24, identifying a second set of transformation variables for said first value; determining a second transformation function to derive said standard unit of measurement using said second value and said second set of transformation variables; receiving a value for each of said second set of transformation variables; and determining said second transformation factor using received values and said second transformation function (column 11, lines 24-42).

Claims 11 and 26, the standard unit of measurement is a buyer comparative bid parameter (column 11, lines 24-42).

Claims 13 and 28, comparing said third value and said fourth value; and ranking said third value with respect to said fourth value in accordance with said comparison (column 12, lines 40-65).

Claims 14 and 29, displaying said ranking for a buyer (column 12, lines 40-65).

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Claims 15 and 30, de-transforming said third value to a fifth value having said second unit of measurement, and said fourth value to a sixth value having said first unit of measurement; and sending said fifth value to said second bidder and said sixth value to said first bidder (column 11, line 66 thru column 12, line 39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

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9. Claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17, 19, 23, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boesch et al. (hereinafter Boesch) U.S. Patent 5,897,621 in view of A Comprehensive Lease/Purchase Model by Gutman et al. (hereinafter Gutman).

Claims 2 and 17, Boesch teaches a method of transforming bids. Boesch fails to teach that the first value is a monthly lease payment and said second value is a purchase price. Gutman teaches a comprehensive leave/purchase model that transforms lease options and purchase options to obtain a present value and distinguish which option with all circumstances taken into affect, is most advantageous (page 1 and page 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Boesch and include values in lease and purchase format because Boesch teaches transforming of units to a standard format for comparison as well as optimization techniques used in conjunction with transformations to achieve the best deal.

Claims 4 and 19, Boesch teaches transforming said first value and said second value (column 11, lines 1-42). Boesch fails to specify that the transformation require a linear transformation. Official Notice is taken that linear transformation are old and well known in the art. Therefore it would've been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Boesch and include linear transformations because it is an efficient manner to transfer a value in a certain unit into another desired unit for easier reference for a buyer or seller.

Claims 8 and 23, Gutman teaches the first set of transformation variables comprise at least one of a group comprising tax rate, a depreciation model, a book value life, a cost of debt, a cost of capital, risk factors based on different leasing plans, inception costs and exit costs (page 2).

Claims 10 and 25, Gutman teaches the second set of transformation variables comprise at least one of a group comprising tax rate, a depreciation model, a book value life, a cost of debt, a cost of capital, risk factors based on different leasing plans, inception costs and exit costs (page 2).

Claims 12 and 27, Gutman teaches a bid parameter such as net present value (page 2).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefano Karmis whose telephone number is (571) 272-6744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully Submitted
Stefano Karmis
25 July 2005



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